

Time set: 10:00 AM
Start time: 10:17 AM
End time: 10:58 AM

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

MINUTE OF PROCEEDINGS:

SILVIA L. CARRENO-COLL, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Reina Alvarez Miranda

Date: June 16, 2022

COURT REPORTER: Evilys Carrión

Criminal Case: 19-121 (SCC)

Attorneys

United States of America

v.

(2) Vladimir Natera-Abreu
(5) Jose L. Garcia-Lopez
(6) Luis A. Garcia-Lopez
(7) Elvin O. Cruz-Verges
(9) Segismar Rodriguez-Rivera
(10) Luis Serrano-Nieves
(11) Christian O. Dalmau-Garcia
(12) Fabian Viloria-Sepulveda
(13) Anthony Vazquez-Arroyo
(14) Luis R. Espinal-Rivera
(15) Ignacio Gual-Calderon
(16) Jonathan Rivera-Carrasquillo
(17) Samuel Castro-Rivera
(19) Joset J. Rivera-Verdejo
(20) Jason Arroyo-Perez
(26) Jonathan O. Arce-Carrillo
(27) Gustavo J. Germes-Estrella
(28) Dionicio Odali De La Rosa-Richiez
(30) Carlos R. Nieves
(33) Adams E. Aquino-Rosario
(34) Alexis Fermaint-Caraballo
(35) Christian J. Sierra-Perez
(36) Victor Rivera-Galindez
(38) Edgardo A. Benitez-Guivas

AUSA Joseph L. Russell

Jennie M. Espada-Ocasio
Linda George
Howard Leader
Kehylis Y. Vazquez-Torres
Francisco J. Adam (for Raul S. Mariani-Franco)
Juan P. Rivera-Roman – NOT PRESENT
Rafael F. Castro-Lang
Miguel Oppenheimer (for Jose L. Novas-Debien)
Diego H. Alcala-Laboy
Francisco J. Adams-Quesada
Peter Diaz-Santiago – NOT PRESENT
Rachel Brill
Rafael Castro-Lang (for Raymond L. Sanchez)
Jennie M. Espada-Ocasio (for Alejandro Sanfeliu-Vera)
Miguel A. Rodriguez-Robles (not present)
Rafael F. Castro-Lang
Victor A. Ramos-Rodriguez
Lydia Lizarribar-Masini
Ruben Cerezo-Hernandez
Marta T. Rey-Cacho
Johnny Rivera-Gonzalez (for Jose B. Velez-Goveo)
Johnny Rivera-Gonzalez
Eduardo Ferrer-Rios – NOT PRESENT
Thomas Trebilcock-Horan

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(53) Edwin Rosa-Colon	Mariangela Tirado-Vales
(54) Luis O. Caban-Rodriguez	Miguel Oppenheimer
(56) Leslie R. Dominguez-Miranda	Juan F. Matos-De-Juan
(60) Joel C. Nieves-Torres	Miguel Oppenheimer (for Jason Gonzalez-Delgado)
(65) Jose J. Piris-Hernandez	Thomas R. Lincoln-San-Juan
(68) Michael G. Marrero-Castro	Rosa Ivette Bonini-Laracuente
(72) Reynaldo M. Diaz-Verges	Joseph G. Feldstein-Del Valle
(74) Carlos Gabriel Rodriguez-Melendez	Ernesto Hernandez-Milan

CASE CALLED FOR A PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

Defense counsel, listed above, were present by Video Tele-Conference (VTC). The parties had no objections as to conducting the hearing by VTC to protect everyone's health in view of the pandemic.

Status of the case was discussed.

The Court clarified concerns regarding COVID protocols when transporting inmates to the Courthouse for Court proceedings.

The Court also clarified that although the Court may request and recommend that a defendant be brought back to the jurisdiction, the US Marshal Services will exercise its discretion taking into account factors like security and capacity for the amount of inmates at the institutions.

The government informed that plea negotiations are ongoing. There is a plea agreement offer that is subject to the first 8 defendants' acceptance. If the first 8 defendants do not plead, the plea agreement will be withdrawn as to the remaining defendants.

The Court informed that June 30th, 2022 is available for scheduling the Change of Plea Hearings of the 8 first defendants if they file the motion for change of plea.

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Concerns voiced by defense counsel regarding poor communication with their clients due to COVID protocols were heard.

Defense counsel informed that plea negotiations are ongoing.

Defense counsel requested that the date for pleading guilty be extended and that the trial date be adjourned for 6 weeks. The government had no objections.

The Court held both matters under advisement. Ruling to be issued by separate order.

STA tolled in the interest of justice. The Court finds that the defendants' need to review discovery and engage in plea negotiations outweighs the defendants' and the community's interest in a speedy trial.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 16th day of June, 2022.

s/ Reina Alvarez Miranda
COURTROOM DEPUTY